

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are cancelled and claims 59-61 are added, such that claims 11-61 are all the claims pending in the application.

I. Double Patenting

Statutory

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 3, 4, 7-10, respectively, of U.S. Patent No. 6,186,619. Without acquiescing to the grounds of the rejection, claims 1-10 are cancelled rendering the rejection moot.

Non-statutory

Claims 11-17, 19-33, 35-49 and 51 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-5, 8-11, 16, 18 and 19 of U.S. Patent No. 5,910,809 in view of Matsuda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,364,070).

Claims 18, 34 and 50 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 2 of U.S. Patent No. 5,910,809 in view of Fujimoto (JP 62-254667).

To overcome the obviousness-type double patenting rejections, and as the path of least resistance, Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer. The filing of the Terminal Disclaimer simply serves the statutory function of removing the rejection of double patenting and raises neither presumption nor estoppel on the merits of the rejection. It is submitted that

obviation of the double patenting rejection by submission of the Terminal Disclaimer should not be construed as an admission or acquiescence or estoppel on the merits.

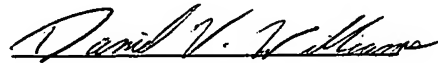
II. NEW CLAIMS

New claims 59-61 are added to obtain more varied protection for the invention. These claims are submitted to be patentable over the applied art due to their novel and unobvious features.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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